
Press Release

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Six-county SCAG Region Awarded More Than \$115 million to Support Active Transportation Programs

Los Angeles – Active transportation efforts in Southern California received a major financial boost this month with the awarding of \$115.2 million to fund 68 projects, including \$2.3 million for a region-wide safety and encouragement campaign.

As part of the 2014 Active Transportation Program (ATP), adopted Wednesday by the California Transportation Commission, the six-county region served by the Southern California Association of Governments will receive about 63 percent of total funding awarded through the statewide ATP competition.

SCAG itself will receive \$2.3 million to conduct the Southern California Active Transportation Safety and Encouragement Campaign, designed to promote walking and biking and reduce the number of injuries and fatalities among pedestrians and bicyclists. SCAG will collaborate with county transportation commissions, departments of public health and stakeholders to develop a regional advertising campaign, community outreach/tactical urbanism events, and active transportation training and toolkits designed for target audiences.

An average of 38 pedestrians or bicyclists are injured or killed every day in the SCAG region.

“Active transportation is a vital component of Southern California’s transportation and mobility needs moving forward, and we applaud Gov. Brown, the Legislature and the Transportation Commission for making this such a significant funding priority,” said Hasan Ikhrata, Executive Director of SCAG. “This kind of commitment to active transportation programs will reap long-lasting benefits in terms of health, safety and the sustainability of our communities.”

Among the specific benefits often cited with regard to active transportation are reductions in traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions and chronic disease. According to the Center for Disease Control, incorporating 30 minutes of physical activity into everyday routines significantly reduces the risk among adults of diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer.

When combined with other funding sources, the \$115.2 million in state ATP money will actually result in \$248 million worth of investment in active transportation facilities, plans and programs in the six-county SCAG region. Among the major ATP awardees were:

- The City of Los Angeles – \$18.9 million for five different Safe Routes to School programs.

- The Coachella Valley Association of Governments – \$10.9 million for its CV Link project connecting eight cities and two Native American tribal communities through a combination of pedestrian, bicycle and low-speed electric vehicle routes.
- The City of Palmdale – \$5.3 million for its Avenue R Complete Streets and Safe Routes program.
- The San Bernardino Associated Governments – \$4.7 million to improve transit access for cyclists and pedestrians at Metrolink stations throughout the county.

Nearly \$500 million was requested in the six-county region to implement projects in over 100 different cities. Those projects not selected through the statewide competition have a second chance for funding through the regional portion of the program, which will be approved by SCAG in October and include awards totaling \$78 million.

“In 2012, we adopted a Regional Transportation Plan that focuses on increasing transportation choices, including the tripling of investments in active transportation.” Ikhata said. “The broad interest in the ATP from across our urban, suburban and rural communities reflects a strong and growing commitment from our elected officials, planners, businesses and residents towards meeting this goal.”

For a full list of awardees, please visit:

http://www.catc.ca.gov/programs/ATP/2014_ATP_Adoption_BI_final.pdf

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG’s regional efforts, please visit www.scag.ca.gov.